

WALKER'S WITTERINGS

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A lot of fuss has been made recently about the raid on German pirate **Radio Dr.Tim** and the follow up broadcast by the said Doctor, via the **Farmers of Holland** high power transmitter with some hot tempered words aimed at the German PTT. This in turn may have lead to the raid on the Farmers TX site with some co-operation between the two countries PTT departments. Raids are normally instigated by complaints of interference by the general public who find that they have a pirate station coming out if their television or telephone etc... In the UK at monitoring stations pirates are logged as a matter of course, bearings are taken to find where the transmissions are coming from and then the information is then passed on to the Radio Authority. Sometimes the RA do nothing, but at odd times they do act and carry out a raid. The point I am trying to make is that they know where we all are broadcasting from but here in Britain the RA staff is very small so no action is usually taken.

The **Level 48 Network** here in Europe operates twice a year and proves that free radio operators can co-operate with each other, to put a large network of stations on the air on various frequencies, this surely is a good thing for all of us, so why would someone put a spoof station on air called **Level 47** and play a record by Tic Tac Toe called "Ich Find

Dich Scheisse" which means in English "I Think You're Shit"? This person obviously has a grudge against the people behind the set-up and maybe the stations involved in the network, which means he has a grudge against myself and RFL as we have been part of the team and still are, so it's personal. So listen up Mr. Level 47 you Slim-Bag, one day somewhere you and I will meet face to face. Enough said.

I wish to ask all Dutch high power operators to buy some radio receivers this year, so they can listen to the bands before they switch on their big rigs and don't jam out any other lower powered stations, like they have been doing for so long now.

Finally a message to the Editor of **Pirate Chat**. You should be grateful to **Dave Martin** and the old WNKR team that you have something to shout about when to comes to the 76 metre band, as it was us lot that started what is now a very popular and well used band and you wouldn't have any thing to say if we hadn't started broadcasting there in early 1992. So come down to London and give our shoes a nice licking with your tongue like a good little Boy!

Andy Walker

JOIN AND ENJOY!

PIRATE CONNECTION

Europe's leading Pirate Radio magazine

PIRATE CONNECTION #17

The Scandinavian Free Radio Magazine

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

- THE DANISH VIKING – STIG HARTVIG NIELSEN
- RADIO FREE LONDON
- K-2000 (USA)



In 1983, Stig-Hartvig Nielsen introduced a new type of programme format to the Danish audience on Radio Århus – "pop-radio" à la Veronica...

PIRATE CONNECTION

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Editorial

This editorial is getting less and less space due to the continuous increase in numbers of writers! I'm very honoured to present to you no less than three new columnists this time. It's RFL's fame Andy Walker who will write fearless comments in his "Walker's Witterings" in which no-one goes safe! Lars Andersson, a notorious Free Radio DX-er, takes over my EPS column and Patrik Willför resumes the long-lost Mediumwave column. A heartily welcome to you and also special thanks to Stuart Dobson of Radio Caroline for his interesting stories of some offshore memories. Finally, apologies for the delay of this issue – I hope it was worth the wait!

Stefan

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EURO PIRATE SCENE

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Radio 75 participated in the Michel Ravigneaux memorial Free Radio contest with a broadcast on December 21st on 6290 kHz LSB. The station was also relayed over **Radio Europe** on 7306 kHz LSB. This station first started off in early 1993 when the operator became infamous for his jammings of the Russian colleague station **Radio Without Borders International**. Stefan tells he gets cold shivers going down his back when thinking on this station, after having received quite a sickening, letter a few years back in which the operator was depicted as a military soldier, "Commander of armoured train", telling offending things in general and against RWBI in particular. Anyway, if you want to contact this station, there is a brand-new address of P.O. Box 7, 335001 Sevastopol in Ukraine.

SPZ SRS

Radio Bremen tested its low-power equipment for shortwave on February 22nd, 6260 kHz. Normally this station runs on medium-wave. Address: P.O. Box 962, 7550 AZ Hengelo, The Netherlands.

SRS

Radio Bubenfunk is a new clownish German station that was heard on February 2nd, 6252 kHz. Unfortunately the modulation was a bit low to get all the contents, but if we mention the guys behind this project you might get a notion of it: Hoellen-Heinz (Hell's Heinz), Werner Zucke, Sala Bumba, Tomaten-Andy, Martin and Electric Erwin. 'Buben', by the way, is German for a 'young boy'.

SRS

Christmas activities. Stefan has written a special article on what was being heard over the Christmas holiday, which should be regarded as an amendment to this EPS report.

Radio City recently announced that they will be on the air in March somewhere in the 7480-7510 kHz range. The show will start off at 8.00 and a lot of "crazy tunes" from the 50's will be played. Don't miss this out!

SRS

Radio CLCG (Clandestine Listeners' Club Germany) was heard with their Christmas broadcast (although actually no XMAS-music was played!) on December 14th/15th on 3920 kHz and 6294 kHz via **Radio Driland International**. The station intends to be back at the end of March with some programmes in German. Contact address is still P.O. Box 540101, D-47151 Duisburg, Germany.

LAY

Radio Cochiquaz is the name of a new South American hobby pirate station! A broadcast session was held in the beginning of February on 11413 and 6925 kHz but so far we have no confirmations whether this was heard in the US or here in Europe. Contact addresses are Casilla 2571, 1000 Buenos Aires, Argentina (no station name on envelope!!) and P.O. Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214, USA.

JRG


SOS Radio

– the Sound of Sweden

STEFAN PRINTZ, Rydholm

This confirms Your reception of our 10 years anniversary show. Many thanks for Your report!

Date: 1985-12-29
Frequency: 6206 kHz via Radio Delmare
Time: 1121 1511 50T



Probably Sweden's most famous Free Radio station – The Sound of Sweden, active from the mid 70's until the early 80's. In 1985 their 10 years anniversary show was relayed over Radio Delmare from Belgium.

Radio Double Joe is thought to be a new Italian station operating on 7354 kHz, where the station was noted on February 16th. The number of ID's were plenty but no address was announced.

SRS

Easy Radio International say they hope to be back on 48 metres in March or April. Currently they are off-air due to technical prob-

lems. The power of this station is 19 W fed into an inverted V antenna. Address: P.O. Box 130, 925 04 Rueil Cedex, France. SRS

European Music Radio plans to return this year with a handful broadcasts on an irregular basis. Tests have already been carried out on 41 metres. SRS



Italian Radio Spoleto International, a regular station on 7140 kHz in the mid 80's.

The **Farmers From Holland** say they don't drink that much! "We sound like that without beer" they say and points out that their dear echo effect strongly increases the "drunken farmers" effect. Believe in this, anyone? Anyway, the real news is that the station was not unexpectedly raided on January 19th. At 16.30, one PTT and one police officer entered the studio and the transmitter removed, but not until the officials had had some coffee with the farmers and thanked them for the good programmes...! (Netherlands is an amazing country). The raid was most probably a direct result of the serious provocations against the German PTT by the operator **Radio Dr. Tim**. To quote **Andy Walker** from RFL prior to the raid: "If Dr. Tim or the tape pirates in general are using now the Farmers' transmitter as relay, the next raid will take place within weeks." After the raid he said "This is proof that no relay station should 'slag-off' the PTT or any Government Department via someone else's transmitter!!!". Just a few weeks later after the raid, the Farmers were back again, but expect more cautiousness and less programming hours from the station. AW SRS

Freedom International is the shortwave service of the Irish FM-station "Freedom FM". The station was heard on 6250 kHz on Janu-

ary 26th with a fair signal here in southern Sweden. The station also called itself "the voice of southern Dublin" and broadcast various music along with information about the Dublin area. Head of the station is **Ralph McGarry** who welcomes your support and mails. "There is no excuse for listeners not to get in touch with us" he says. Address is 333 Glenview Park, Old Blessington Road, Dublin 24, Ireland. Phone: +353 4565284, mobile phone +353 87609867, fax +353 14521690 and e-mail: yr196008@cs.may.ie. LAY SRS

Radio Free London continue to be short-wave's most active station at present with extensive programming on 3945 and 6400 kHz in parallel. The broadcasts start off at 20 UTC on each Saturday evening and last until 19 UTC the next Sunday evening! Current line-up is Andy Walker, Terry Philips, Eric May and Tony Randall. The past weekend, 1st-2nd March, RFL featured a four hour "Good Time Oldies" show plus special comic features by Tony: "Gary the Gay Dustman" and "Larry the Shirt-lifter"!! Be sure to tune in RFL next time. During the East weekend, RFL plan to be on the air with a 24-hour service, from 20 UTC on Thursday Evening (27th March) until 20 UTC on Monday Evening (31st March). While on air, the station can be phoned in to on +44 378 355 174. Address: RFL, Box 99, First Floor Suite, 253 Selhurst Road, London, SE25 6XT. E-mail: RFLSW@aol.com. AW

Radio Freudenstab (German for "joystick") was a one-off (?) project by **Radio Joystick** which was heard on January 26th on 6280 kHz. A rather odd show was aired with DJ **Kalle Prinz** (alias Charlie Prince) and old GDR music! Kalle said there would be a special QSL available for this one! Contact address: P.O. Box 220342, 42373 Wuppertal, Germany. LAY

Jugendradio DT64 was a surprise on 6260 kHz on December 29th last year. Jingles like "Power from east side" was heard and the Wuppertal-boxdrop was announced for listeners. DT64 was the former youth programme in the former GDR, and as far as I know this station changed its name some years ago to MDR Sputnik. Whether there is any connec-

tion between this stations is not known; probably it's just some kind of joke... LAY

Level 47 is yet another spoof station that was heard at various times on January 26th on 6260 kHz. Of course, this is a joke about Level 48, the famous European pirate project that was heard during Christmas. The address P.O. Box 2209, 77612 Offenburg was announced (although it has not been authorised to use by the **Free Radio Campaign Germany**) and as return postage they wanted the reporters to enclose an FM-, SW or MW-transmitters... The programme contained offending features like the German song "Ich find Dich scheiss" which means "I think you're shit". There were also several of the Level 48 jingles played which have made the organisers **Crazy Wave Radio** and **Radio Benelux** furious! After some investigations, Chris found out that **Radio Nordsee's Mike Anderson** is behind this spoof and demanded an explanation from him. "I cannot understand your primitive behaviour and there are unwritten laws in the Free Radio world which everyone accepts" says Chris. LAY SRS

Radio Ko(h)libri was really the surprise of Sunday January 26th when German DJ fame **Roger Kirk** (ex **Radio Victoria**) appeared on 6287 kHz. Please note that this was a legal transmission as the station had a special short-term licence valid for a few days. More information can be obtained from the Website: <http://www.satellinet.de/koHlibri/>. SPZ SRS

Radio Nordsee International was heard on January 26th on 6274 kHz with a good signal in southern Sweden with a long show featuring various DJ's. For the delight of Swedish DX-ers, much Swedish music was also heard in the programme, e.g. Olle Ljungström and Orup. Reports should be sent to the Wuppertal drop. LAY

Radio North Pole is a new Dutch operation which was heard with a brief test transmission on February 9th, using 6255 kHz. Address was announced as P.O. Box 170, 6940 AB Didam, The Netherlands. SRS

Passion Radio returned to the airwaves with a mastodon 6 hour broadcast on February 9th.

Frequencies were 3905 kHz in the 76 metre band and 6293 kHz in the 48 metre band. The station was the first to use the "Free Radio Phone Service" offered by the SRS in Sweden where no less than 65 calls from Holland, Germany, Scotland and Sweden were received! If you weren't among those who called, you may also contact the station via e-mail: passion@srs.pp.se. SRS

Peter Verbruggen from fame **FRS Holland** became 40 years on January 24th. Congrats from all at the PC staff, Peter! May you continue with Free Radio for many years to come, you have an important role both as a producer and presenter at FRS as well as an issuer of our "competitor" FRS Goes DX. SPZ

Radio Petino is the joint project between **Radio Perfekt**, **Radio Dr. Tim** and **Radio Nordsee**. The station was on the air on January 12th from a cold studio somewhere in Germany. The broadcast started on 6271 kHz and later the outlet was changed to 6262 kHz. The Wuppertal address was announced and a special coloured QSL was being promised. There was also three T-shirts to be disposed by lottery for those writing in. SRS

The Pulse is a new soul-oriented station which was testing on 3940 kHz January 19th from early morning to late afternoon. Modulation was very low. Any more information on this station would be highly appreciated! SRS

Radio Tula is thought to be the name of the Russian station on 6260 kHz. The station is licensed and presents music to youth people. SRS

The **Wuppertal maildrop** can now be contacted by e-mail: dropbox@germanymail.com is the address to write to. SRS

Contributors and sources

AW - Andy Walker, England
JRG - Jorge R. Garcia, South America
LAY - Lars Andersson, Sweden
RB - Rainer Brandt, Germany
SPZ - Stefan Printz, Sweden
SRS - SRS News #52 1996 - #9 1997

US PIRATE SCENE

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A lot has happened on the U.S. pirate scene since the last issue of PC. As soon as that issue began mailing the weekday pirate broadcasts began to taper off some. There were still broadcasts, but not quite as many. And, propagation seemed to be spotty. Noise levels have been low for the 43 meter band, but propagation has just not been there at times. I had hoped that it would steadily pick up as the holidays approached.

There has been quite a lot of pirate related activity in the past few months. There has been a very big change in The ACE staff. The president Kirk Baxter has stepped down after all these years. He has been president of the only magazine in the U.S. for pirate radio listeners. His contributions are too many to even begin to list. He will be missed. Pat Murphy is the new president now. Pat has taken over the reins of The ACE and shows an active interest in keeping the magazine alive. A few changes in the magazine content will be taking place in May. The most visible will be more pages added each month. New columns and new writers will be added. New publishers were also appointed.



If you are connected to the Internet, then you may want to drop in at The Free Radio Network more often. The address is <http://www.clandjop.com/~jcrusan/frn.html>. This site offers the best U.S. Web site for Free Radio

listeners. It is our version of The SRS site with links all over the world. There are many links to European stations, manufacturers, and other odd and ends related to radio. There is also a link to Pirate Connection too. There are photos of QSLs and files relating to radio. One of the hottest pages on FRN this past month has been The Grapevine and Live Chat. The Grapevine is a public bulletin board where you can post or read messages. This is probably the fastest way to find out if your station was heard in the U.S. since a lot of American east coast DXers post their loggings immediately. Andy Yoder is a frequent contributor. You will find a lot of gossip and comments by operators here, as well as questions and answers. Be sure to click on the Live Chat option when on The Grapevine page. You can give your real name, or an assumed identity before logging on to the chat channel. Once in the chat room, there is no telling who you may find waiting. Even your columnist, Captain_Blood checks in often. Last month proved quite interesting. It seems that the Free Radio Network crew determined that a frequent visitor named Fred_C_Clark was using a location that was registered to The Federal Communications Commission (FCC). When Fred was confronted with this he confessed to being an FCC agent, and carried on daily discussions with chat members. He received a fair share of taunts and insults, but he also seemed interested in staying around the pirate site. He even gave advice and acted like he wasn't interested in busting pirate radio operators. So, if you were there to read this very interesting dialog, you decide if he was being just a regular old good guy, or was he playing with us. After all, he kept logging on for weeks. He wouldn't comment on whether he was using sophisticated FCC DF equipment or not. He claimed to have his own SW radio at his computer terminal, but this was hard to believe considering that he was obviously in an office building in some major city. It seems hard to believe that a working SW antenna in such an office environment is possible.

LOGGINGS

The current trend of stations on the air continues to change from time to time. Here are a few selected loggings of pirate stations since last issue:

The Voice of Helium aired their second show via several relay sites last month. High quality in programming, comedy, and music selection continues with this superb station. Be ready to laugh if you hear this one.

Mystery Radio continues to be on the air frequently. Their format always changes a little with each show. Progressive music styles are part of the stations format. Sometimes, good techno music is aired. A previous show was dedicated to Pink Floyd.

Female Broadcasting Interference (FBI) continues to jam other pirate broadcasts with mostly rap songs. No address is given by the announcer.

Radio City was heard by many U.S. listeners during several relays in December. The signal seems to have gotten out pretty good.

Radio Three had numerous broadcasts in December. Several shows were aired, including a Christmas special.

The Crooked Man is back on the air again, or rather, someone is keeping this show fresh by relaying it. I don't think they ever announced a drop when they first came on the air several years ago. If you haven't heard this one, then it will rate as one of the strangest shows you've ever heard if you are lucky enough to catch it one day. It is not the usual show of sound effects or weird music, but it just completely strange...and very good. The announcer gives a very strange account of being a millionaire, falling out of a burning Hindenburg, and being his own father.

VOX America is back on the air. They don't mention a QSL address any longer after ripping off listeners in 1995 when they asked for \$3 for an oversized QSL. No known QSL was ever sent and the box was closed shortly afterwards.

And, that's it for this issue. I hope you are staying tuned to the Free Radio bands and that the DX is good. Be sure and let someone know if you are logging the U.S. stations from over there. I'm sure that you will have a great chance to pick up a few stations soon. There are a lot of operators here who are wanting to make the jump across the big pond...and they might just do that soon. Be sure to be listening to 43 meters.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE.

SRS NEWS

RELIABLE AND UPDATED
FREE RADIO INFORMATION.

SRS, Östra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden.
Internet: <http://www-pp.hogia.net/jonny/>

MEDIUMWAVE NEWS

Hello, and welcome to Mediumwave News. I intend to write at least one page per number of this mag in the future, and of course I hope the readers will contribute to this column, both with news and with logs.

The first big news this time is that the **Dutch Pirate Radio Service** has closed down for good, and all the stations that were contactable via DPRS are now unknown.

I will try to continue with something like the DPRS, but I won't verify the pirates, I will only forward the letters. When you use my address, use my name, and don't write a word about pirates on the envelope. Also please remember to send 2 IRC's, \$2, Dutch/German stamps or whatever that is about the same value as the IRC's. One of the IRC goes for forwarding costs, and the other one will go to the pirate. At the moment the following stations can be contacted via me: **Dortmunder**, **Pelgrim** and **Caroline** (NL). You'll find my address on the inside of the PC cover. Stations that do not have an address, and would like to have one, can also contact me.

From The Netherlands we jump up to Ireland. From SRS I read that **Radio Caroline** will launch Mediumwave broadcasts via a Nova high powered transmitter. The planned frequency is 864 kHz. Test tapes has already been recorded in the UK. Broadcasting will (or should) start in late January.

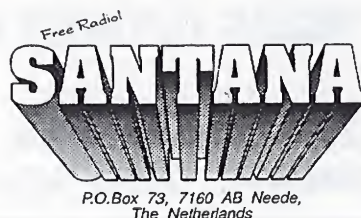
Most common stations from the Netherlands I've noted are **Mario**, **Graaf Van Luxemburg**, **BMX**, **Golfbreker**, **Spin**, **Utopia** and **Barones**.



My own **Logs** (hope for some from you too for next issue):

kHz	Date	Time	Station
1614	141296	2342	West QSO w. Graaf Van Luxemburg
1633	071296	2324	Kristal QSO w. Foxfire
1633	081296	0056	Derde Man QSO w. Zwarte Non
1633	081296	0106	Commando QSO w. Zwarte Non
1636	081296	0005	Zwarte Non with an hour's music program
1636	141296	0029	Zwarte Johnny with a music program
1636	261296	0034	Vroniecus QSO BMX
1637	141296	0708	Delta (Elburg) QSO with everyone
1638	141296	0711	Havanna QSO w. Delta
1638	141296	2343	Hertog Jan QSO w. Graaf Van Luxemburg
1638	261296	0041	Sallandse Boer QSO w. BMX and DB
1640	141296	0655	Delmare QSO w. Zwarte Johnny
1642	141296	0719	Vlierefluiter QSO w. Golfbreker
1643	251296	2335	Noordzee en Populaire with mx program
1645	141296	0723	Vrije Vogel QSO with Vlierefluiter
1646	141296	2326	Kontakt QSO with Mi Amigo and West
1648	141296	2328	Mi Amigo QSO with Kontakt
1660	231296	2115	Bremen QSO with Graaf Van Luxemburg

That was all for this time, I hope you had pleasant reading.



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OFFSHORE RADIO

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LET'S GO SURFING

Watery wireless news is rather thin on the ground (maybe that should be water) at the moment, so I'd thought we'd have a look at what has perhaps become one of the few free places on the planet. You will find quite a bit of offshore radio related news and information there, among much, much else. I guess there is another connection with water, in that we're riding the waves, although in this case they're electronic rather than those of the sea. In case you hadn't realised, we're talking about the internet and the superhighway known as the world wide web. I'm not going into details about how to get onto the superhighway, if you're not on it the following isn't going to mean a lot to you, but for those computer users, here's a small selection of some offshore, pirate and free radio related sites.

OFFSHORE RADIO LINKS

<http://home.t-online.de/home/vanderVen>
The best starting point for offshore radio web surfing, at the last visit Dr. Martin van der Ven listed 90 offshore related web sites.

FREE RADIO NETWORK

<http://www.clandjop.com/~jcrzan/frn.html>
If it isn't on Dr Martin's site, then try this one, with extensive links to offshore, free radio and pirate sites. There is also news and files to download including "how to" guides – build your own transmitter, etc, pirate radio survival guide, audio, and more.

PIRATE RADIO OF THE OFFSHORE KIND

<http://www.guernsey.net/~bebridel/index.html>
Offshore radio history and memories, with much input from Offshore Echo's magazine.

LINE ONE RADIO NEWS

<http://www.line1.co.uk>

Radio news from former Caroline presenter Steve Conway, updated every Friday, often includes offshore radio news.

ILLEGAL STATIONS

<http://pine.shu.ac.uk/~sejones/pirates/index.shtml>
Mostly London and UK land based pirates are featured, but offshore radio gets a brief mention.

ARUTZ 7

<http://www.jer1.co.il/media/arutz7>
Arutz Sheva was the first offshore radio station to join the internet. Information and pictures of the station, plus daily Israeli news service.

LIGHTWAVE MISSION BROADCASTING

<http://www.tv36.com/buffalo.html>
A picture of the MV Fury and news of Radio New York International. Promised soon are details of the Electra offshore radio station.

KENNY EVERETT

<http://www.nbs.ntu.ac.uk/staff/baylidj/kenny.htm>
Text and appreciation of the late Mr. Everett. Quote – Sheriff to cowboy – Hands up, ya bum. Cowboy – Up where?

RADIO HAURAKI

<http://www.hauraki.xtra.co.nz/>
New Zealand's offshore station is nowadays a landbased FM broadcaster. This superb site includes the stations offshore history, with many pictures and audio.

OFFSHORE ECHO'S

<http://www.guernseyweb.co.uk/offshore.html>
(European server) and

<http://www.pcaudio.com/offshore.html>

(American server)

The offshore radio news and nostalgia magazine site includes the OEM collection of CD's,

videos, tapes and books, as well as features, and archive material. The American site will soon include RealAudio of Caroline and other offshore programmes.

Continued from page 19.

you've ever been to a radio convention or club meeting, I think you'll agree that our acting is right on the mark. A few years ago, we produced a talk show called "Bob Rock" in which the host continuously urged the listeners to either spend more time with their "XYL"s or buy dildos for them. I mean, DX'ers are the only people who will say "Man, QSL'ing Radio Puta Mierda was better than oral sex!". Our message is simple: DX'ers are obsessed compulsives with mental and physical problems.

I'm afraid we're running out of time, but let me ask you what's in store for the future of K-2000.

There will be more shows, that's for sure. But it's always hard to tell because there's five of us behind the station. At this moment we're in production of an ethnic show with parody skits moving from Trinidad (where Zeller sings Soca on "The Black DX'er Show") to Cuba (where Arnie Culo of Radio Habana guest hosts "Sabado Gigante" with that fatso loudmouth Chilean Don Francisco and Alvin the Chipmunk) and then possibly to Texas (for a parody of the American Nazi shows). We're also

very interested in establishing relations with European stations to produce Euro-based shows. We really want to imitate Radio City, Starshine Radio, Radio Dr. Tim, Northern Radio, and Live Wire Radio, but only time will tell. What is certain is that our last show will broadcast in the year 2000, and during it we will reveal the meaning of our name "K-2000".

And with that, we ended the interview. I remember that one very insightful statement was made by K-2000 before we actually started the interview. They said that pirate radio DXing was supposed to be fun, and that most American listeners seem to have forgotten this. A majority of DXers have become more interested in collecting QSLs and logging the most stations, while listening to the shows and enjoying the material isn't important to them anymore. Maybe this one statement sums up what K-2000 is all about.

What does the crew have in store for the pirate radio DXers in the future? I was afraid to ask! Maybe a cutting satire about interviewers asking too many questions???

**BE SURE YOU DON'T MISS
THE FREE RADIO LIVE CHAT!**

www.clandjop.com/grapevine/chat2/chat.html

THE RAID ON DR. TIM

A lot of fuss has been made of the recent raid on Radio Dr. Tim and I would like to add my own personal comments about this.

Although it is bad news when a pirate station gets raided, especially one on Shortwave, I can't help thinking that an operator that broadcasts from his own house with high power during the day has to be stupid. Even low powered rigs can cause interference to modern day household equipment and telephone systems. Interference is one of the major causes of a raid from the authorities, it was made clear to me only the other day when I was talking to one of my wife's work colleagues. Three years ago he was one of the team of DTI investigators who went out and raided pirate stations in the London area, and the reason these stations were taken off the air was due to interference, not just to other radio operators but to telephones in peoples homes, CD players video machines etc.

Am I right in thinking that a high percentage of raids on SW pirates over the last 5 years were raids on stations that have broadcast from houses? Remote locations are far safer to transmit from as there is less chance of causing problems to homeowners by knocking out their TV sets and telephones. London AM pirate Radio Argus had to close down its regular Sunday broadcasts on 1125 because the signal was getting into the Hi-Fi and telephone of the person who lived on the ground floor and into a Fax Machine in the house next door, and that was still after the power was dropped from 40 watts to only 10 watts.

The first raid on Argus was in 1990 when it



Your Favourite Station

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was on FM and the reason for that raid was interference, also during the raid DTI officers took the operators address book which contained real names, addresses and phone numbers of most of London's main operators of that time, this included also my own home telephone number, but not my real name although the authorities could have easily found it with just a phone number.

The action of Dr. Tim by shouting down the German PTT with a broadcast via the Farmers of Holland was not a bright idea, just think if the German PTT get a bit of co-operation going with their Dutch counterparts? This could spell trouble for the Farmers. I think I am right in saying the 1991 raid on a well known UK SW station had the co-operation of the Dutch and Belgium PTT when they took bearings for the UK authorities to track this station down.

I am sorry to say that any pirate operator that causes interference should be closed down, and in that statement I include myself although I've been involved with raids on stations which I've been broadcasting on, one in 75 on MW (AM) one in 87 on FM, and FM again in 88. In the 11 years I've been on Shortwave I have never had problem (and lets hope it stays that way).

Our transmitters are maintained on a regular basis, where a good engineer is used to check for any problems, also the aerials are taken down and checked once a month. Interference gives pirate radio a bad name, so when a station is raided due to this, it makes it look bad for all the rest of us.



THE RFL INTERVIEW

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Radio Free London (RFL) is at the moment the only pirate radio station running an extended service every first and third Sunday of the month, on 3945 and 6400 in parallel. Normally transmissions start in the early Saturday evening and end Sunday evening. The transmitting equipment runs fully automatically, the programme will be repeated every 4 hours, while the third outlet on 6275 kHz is used for paid relays.

The RFL roots go back till 1968, when Radio Free London in August first came on the air, on the first anniversary of the closure of Britain's offshore stations. Till early 1969 the Radio Free London transmissions could be heard on FM every weekend. After a break, interrupted only by a few transmissions, RFL once more entered the airwaves for London with regular weekend programmes in March 1973 and found a sudden end in November 1974, when the station got busted and four members of the staff were caught. A second phase of broadcasting started in late 1978 lasted for more than 5 years without major problems. Also RFL used during the last years of this phase the rooftops of South London's highrise tower blocks for covering whole London, a transmitting side which was and still is quite popular among London's FM pirates. After more and more legalized stations entered the airwaves it seemed that the need for a pirate station with a special rock format became less and so R.F.L. faded slowly away, a last high power transmission was aired from Mottingham Kent over the Christmas days 1992. Surprisingly in March 1995 low powered transmissions as RFL could be heard once more on a regular base in London. The new staff mixed of some "old" and a lot of new presenters and supporters made within months the decision to continue on shortwave due to a lack of response on the FM transmissions.

The following interview with Andy Walker (AW) and Terry Phillips (TP) was made on

January 5th 1997 at Andy's house in London.

Let's start with some historical questions, how did you become involved with Free Radio?

TP: Well I am old enough to remember the pirates in 1964 and that's when I fell in love with Free Radio.



Terry Phillips showing his favourite LP – "40 Solid Gold Hits".

Mainly on shortwave or on FM?

TP: No, mediumwave, from ships! Offshore radio from the 60's. Caroline, London....

AW: Bloody boys, honestly!

Yes, offshore, I can remember, hi! Andy, how did you become involved?

AW: By listening, how most people did and then I contacted a London land-based sta-

tion called Radio Kaleidoscope and ended up being one of this side crew on a Sunday watching out for the authorities who want to come and take the transmitter away. That was it!

When did you meet each other?

TP: Oh, what did I do? I think I met you in 1987?

AW: Yes, '87. We had an FM station on the air, you was listening and rang us up, we then ended up in the studio.

TP: In the pub first!

AW: Oh yes, you can't repress the pub, where I was working doing discos there. By the way, he used to work for the DTI at this time!

TP: For a legal station!



Andy Walker's studio equipment.

If you have to compare the Free Radio stations from the 70's with the stations from nowadays, what has changed in your opinion?

TP: Not as professional. I think this also is reflected in the listener's post, you don't get as much in the postline now as you did then. In the 70's you got 50-60 letters per broadcast.

Is this mainly because of lazy listeners, a loss of interest in Free Radio, or are there too many FM stations?

TP: Yes, there is too much choice.

Do you see any differences in Pirate Radio and Free Radio, or is it just another description for the same?

AW: Pirate radio is just a term for expressing that you are broadcasting in an illegal way a free format, and free means that you can express your own opinion whatever it might be over the free airwaves. This is what Free Radio is all about, without any government restriction.

Do you see any opportunity to get an offshore station once more back on the airwaves or is it history and the columns and articles printed in the mags are only nostalgia?

AW: As long as somebody is got the pose to do it, then it is not history. Somebody had to win the money to put out to, or should have the opportunity actually to put a ship out there and find a crew that has got the goods out there and do it, then yes. Until that time comes, we want to know if the UK 1990 Broadcasting Act is valid or not. Nobody has tested it out! So until that time comes around no one will ever know. That is the way I look at it. The only other thing is if a ship was to go out there, what would they programme because everything else is being programmed on legal radio anyway and frequencies are becoming scarce. So I really do not know the answer to this question. As long as somebody got the nerve to do it and can find the crew to do it, then yes. I can't say why not. The UK definitely needs an offshore station because radio in this country is so blend and crap, it is unbelievable.

But what is the advantage of an offshore station a land-based pirate cannot provide?

AW: None, apart from non-stop-music, which you get and most land-based stations play anyway...

TP: ...I am not sure. We have had this talkings at pubs a few times if we won the national lottery and we won 10 million pounds, we have a ship out there within six months, but a part from that I tell you I would do it. We like to do it, but no money. So if every-

body got the money who is listening (or reading this interview!), contact us!

Ok, let's go over to a new aspect of Free Radio. Has the Internet changed Free Radio, and if so, in which way?

AW: Yes, definitely. For example when we had the first reception report from America when we eventually were on the way to switch the transmitter off, but then we sat in the pub and read the letter from America, which I printed out. So yes, most definitively. And I became more Euro-friendly over the last few months since I have been on the Internet and I do not hate Germans, Swiss and French as much as I used to.

Now to some questions mainly concerning RFL. How was the listener's feedback since you have been started your short-wave service?

TP: Very, very good. I think the first broadcast we've put out we've got about twenty letters. We came on totally unannounced and it was a botched aerial between two trees on a hill, not far away from where I live. Myself and Eric May went up there with the battery rig and just put out the preceding week's FM service and that run on short-wave and we got about twenty letters for that.

AW: And the aerial was inefficient!

TP: Yes, 6285 we were on at this time, and we just gone great guns ever since, I mean we have got bags and bags of letters, Chris have not seen yet!

Thank you very much! But I think the problem on shortwave at all is that mainly DXers are listening, and DXers are only interested in the QSL card. So how many people are writing just for the QSL card and how many to support RFL by their letters?

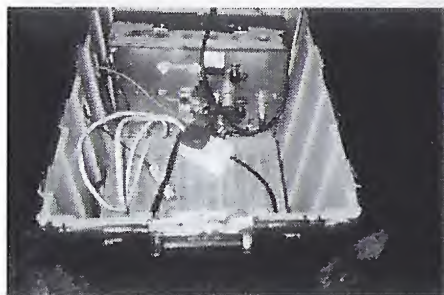
AW: Quite a few. We are mainly get the DXed hungry people, that means people who are writing just once for a QSL card and never write again. They should have their bullocks cut off!!!

TP: Twice!

AW: Twice, and might have to eat them as well.

If you have to put them in per cent? How many are writing only for the QSL card? So far I met some other interviews and people said that it is in their opinion 50 to 60 per cent writing mainly for the QSL-card.

AW: No, I would say it is less now. I mean we got a lot mail from the UK. People just generally write in and support us with just a letter. They not have to reply of anything, they just writing letter to thank us for being on and that they have enjoyed the programme. Unfortunately there is a lot of older people out there listening and they are listening to us because we are older people and playing older music. So the younger radio stations are playing the modern music are not getting any mail of the listener from the majority of the older audience from the UK.



One of the two RFL transmitters.

That means the majority of listeners are older people?

AW, TP: They listen to us, yes.

OK, but do you have an idea how many listeners there at all, because a lot of people never write although they are listening?

AW: A lot of people never write. I have telephone calls from people who never ever have written. They got my telephone number and the ring me ever now, but they have never written in. So yes, I would say that there is a big, a very big percentage. I know for fact that out there in shortwave land about five years ago there were a lot of listeners. I am not talking in hundreds, I am

talking in thousands of people listening to my Free Radio show on WNKR back in the old days. I know this for fact because the nearest thing we have ever got to a poll of short-wave listeners was when the Ross Revenge was in Dover and the crew opened up a premium service telephone line and I was given information about it on a Saturday afternoon and so I plugged the telephone line constantly through out my Free Radio show on Sunday. That week that telephone line received 525 calls. Now, if you work out the average the BBC worked out that one in ten people respond then that brings 5200 listeners. Now works out worthwhile running three, which meant we had an audience of between 15 000 and 15 200 listeners. That is the only real survey that has been done for shortwave listeners.



Andy Walker in front of a part of his big LP collection.

Your future plans concerning RFL?

AW: Unless we get raided we go just go...

TP:... bigger and bigger!

AW: Hopefully extending to the Saturdays in the future, do not know when yet.

TP: No, not yet. Could come, with matter of presenter really, we need more voices to fill the space.

AW: Yes, there is a couple of people to do on a join us anyway, but at the moment we are limited for space. So you might say a Saturday service, you might say a difference service on three MHz suppose to six MHz, there might be a difference service. We are not sure yet.

TP: Plus the bank holidays. We do specials on bank holidays weekends, on Easter, or in August. Bank holidays is one to watch or to listen out for.

And finally some wishes to the other Free Radio stations in Europe, as you said that they are not as professional anymore as they maybe have been in the 70's.

AW: What gets me it is the Dutch QSO stations. They are very powerful transmitters, but the programmes are absolutely boring. You cannot call them a programme. Like you explained to me they are more interested in the technical side of things. And their transmitters splash terrible, it is just rubbish radio. I do not know what it is to not switch off and forget it, I mean they are not really contributing anything to Free Radio. Also stations could come on longer, we are the only station that has got more airtime on air than any other radio station, nobody else is doing this, I cannot understand why. If you gonna run a Free Radio station, do it properly. Come on for a longer length of time, two or three hours, so you are providing a pan-European Free Radio service. That is what we wanna do, and that's what we are doing at the moment.

TP: But I think you got to remember – do not switch on until you checked the frequency because very often they come out on the top of other stations. So tune your radio in first, if it is clear come on! If it isn't stay off and find another spot! That is we got to do.

BENEATH THE MASK: STIG-HARTVIG NIELSEN

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*Stig-Hartvig Nielsen was the man who put Denmark on the Free Radio map with his widely popular **Radio Viking** back in the 70's. After his pirate radio career came to an end, he's been involved in several local Danish FM stations. I recently made an interview with Stig-Hartvig, in view of his sudden resignation from **Radio ABC** and the ceased shortwave service from the station.*

I recently heard that you left your position as station manager for Radio ABC. Could you tell me what happened?

In 1990 I was approached by a very small local radio station called **Up-Front** operating from Randers. They wanted to hire me as station manager and asked me to join as co-owner of their station. I agreed. And as of September 1990 I joined the station, and immediately changed the name into **Radio ABC**.



One of the nice QSL-cards from ABC. The photo is taken from Radio ABC's Beach Party in Grenå, July 13th 1996, where the Malmö based hip-hop group "Basic Element" is seen on stage.

Also the format was changed and the time of broadcasting was expanded a lot. The coverage area was also largely expanded. I used quite aggressive marketing, and within a short while the station became one of the three largest commercial radio stations in Denmark. Extensive expansion was one of the keywords, and for the last couple of years, the

operation was in fact three radio stations: **Radio ABC/Ostjylland** and **Radio ABC/Nordjylland** – each covering different parts of Jutland – and **Radio Alfa**, catering for a more elderly age-group. In the beginning the other co-owners of Radio ABC and I agreed very much on this policy of expansion. However for some time it became increasingly evident that we didn't really wanted the same thing. And somehow it had to come to an end. By the way, Radio ABC/Nordjylland was closed down early January 1997.

At the same time the shortwave broadcasts were ceased, was this a direct result of your notice of leaving?

The shortwave broadcasts of Radio ABC were my idea, and the only other person really interested in the project was program manager **Claus Nielsen**. So obviously these broadcasts had to stop when I wasn't there anymore. This was decided by the other co-owners immediately after October 15th. Moreover Claus was busy with other projects, so he was not interested in continuing with the project.

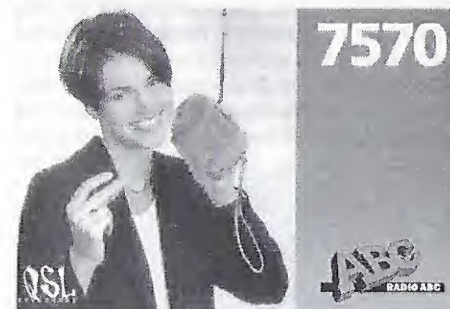
Claus Nielsen also left ABC a couple of months ago. Will he join your new projects now or where did he go?

Claus Nielsen left Radio ABC early December 1996. He is now station manager of **Radio Holsted** in south-western Jutland. Holsted is a very tiny village, but the station is very successful, and is covering a large area in this part of Jutland.

What are you doing now and what will you do after this? There is a rumour circulating saying that you intend to resume World Music Radio. Do you have any comments to that? Would this station offer services on both FM and shortwave?

For the past 14 years I am also the editor and publisher of the one and only listing of radio- and TV stations in Denmark (now also includ-

ing Faeroe Islands and Greenland), and right now, I am busy preparing a new edition of this handbook. Besides that I have been doing some consulting for others. And I am also busy trying to get **World Music Radio** on the air on the scheduled on-air date of March 30th. Nothing has been decided yet, as to the operation of this station, but of course short wave is essential.



Radio and beautiful women has always been Stig-Hartvig's trademark. This smiling Danish lady has certainly been a pleasant addition in the QSL-collection for many DX-ers.

What was the purpose with ABC's short-wave broadcasts?

I wanted to put something else on short wave than the usual government and religious stations which are dominating the shortwave bands in Europe. I have always believed in an informal/personal approach with plenty of good music on short wave. I also wanted to see how the response would be with a powerful signal across most of Europe. A lot of money was spent on the project, but they were very well spent. In connection with the first broadcasts of Radio ABC/Denmark, we made it to the most important newscast on national Danish TV, and we had so much press coverage in national and local media that we would have had to pay manifold the amount that was paid to Russia, would we have had to pay for the same amount of attention by buying commercials. Another purpose of the broadcasts was to promote tourism in the area of Randers and to promote Danish popular music.

You just said you believe shortwave is essential. Do you really think a station can be run on a commercial basis on shortwave?

Do you have any such intentions or what are your reasons for putting efforts into running stations shortwave services?

At present there are quite few shortwave listeners in Europe. However plenty of people in Europe own a receiver capable of receiving shortwave. If there was a station on the air broadcasting on a daily basis for several hours with an attractive format – not generally available on FM – and with a very strong signal with no interference, I think such a station might be able to attract a good deal of listeners. The problem of course is the difficulty in attracting advertisers – because international advertising is rather limited and because advertisers would be reluctant to advertise on a station on *shortwave* (what's that?) without any audience-figures/ratings in the various markets. I have plenty of intentions and plenty of good ideas to make such an operation successful. It's a bit difficult though, but I feel optimistic and believe in that I will have a station on the air soon – at least for a few hours a week – mainly for the fun of it – or perhaps (probably at a later stage) a station on the air for several hours daily. I am hoping and I am working on it.

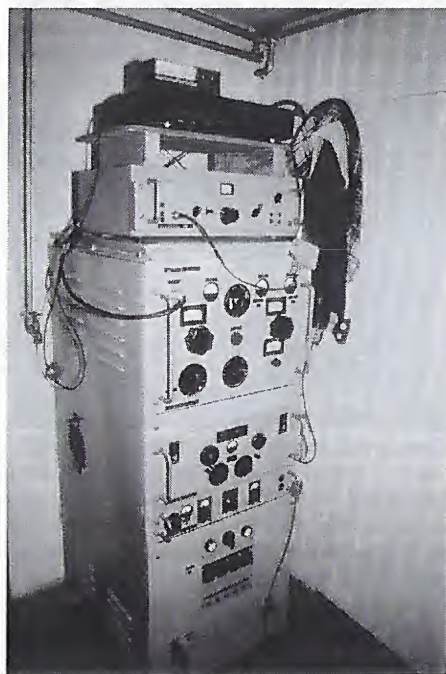


Roses and a female beauty listening to ABC...

The whole pirate world now knows that you were the man behind the famous Radio Viking in the 70's and you were behind many other stations as well, such as Quality AM. Does it happen that you listen out a Sunday morning on 48 metres nowadays? What is your opinion about the pirates of today comparing to the classical pirates of the 70's?

Nahhh... I was behind the very tiny and very low-powered **Radio King Kong** and **Radio Free Sundays** many years ago, and from

1977 to 1978 came the era (hi!) of **Radio Viking**. That was *great* fun 'til I was raided by the Danish postal authorities September 10th 1978. Later I did some programmes for **World Music Radio** in the late 70's. From 1981 I was very much involved with local broadcasting in Denmark, starting at **Radio Århus** for a brief spell, and then as founder and station manager for **Radio Viborg** from 1984-1989. In late 1989 I bought a professional short wave transmitter (400 W) and put it on – what was then a perfectly clear channel – 9985 kHz from January 1st to July 1st 1990 on Sundays on an irregular basis. Sometimes I also used 15 and 21 MHz. The station was **Quality Radio**, and it was heard quite well in many places in Europe and even made it to the west-coast of the USA. Yes, I have been a fairly regular listener to the stations on 48 metres since the time when World Music Radio was on 6067 (later 6225) and stations like **Radio Baltic International** and **Radio Tiffany** in the early 70's.



The shortwave transmitter of Quality Radio. The transmissions took place from a QTH only some 3 km away from the Radio Viking QTH in the heart of Jutland in Denmark.

For the past couple of years after getting two children (now aged 4 and 5½), it's a bit hard to find time (and peace, hi!) to listen on a Sunday morning, so I am not listening that much anymore on Sunday mornings. I think there are many German speaking stations on the air, which I am not too interested in, and a major problem is the increasing number of QSO-stations which has *nothing* to do with broadcasting. These are really "ham-pirates" and ought to find somewhere else to transmit. I like some of the British stations, **FRS Holland** and of course my favourite: **The Drunken Dutch Farmers** (hi!!!).



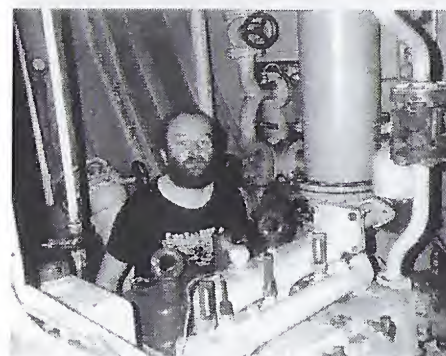
Many DX-ers have complained about your low response to letters and reception reports. What do you have to say to them?

Generally people have been very fair and very patient, but it's true there have been a handful or two handfuls (about 5 or 10) of complaints – one of them from Sweden, from a very negative guy who apparently both thought that I was an idiot, didn't like the programmes at all – and at the same time complained about not receiving a QSL-card immediately after sending his reception report. Now, I don't take this too seriously. It's fair enough when some people don't like me nor my programmes, but as long as this negative criticism is coming from less than 1 % of the listeners it's not going to drive me to despair. What I don't like is the fact that a few DX-ers more or less have been demanding a QSL-card immediately after sending in a report. I know that I have been making some promises on the air about sending out QSL-cards very soon and – honestly – I really intended to do so, but for personal reasons and for reasons connected with my departure from Radio ABC this was eventually not possible. Now – I spent some 50 hours (at least) in the Christmas holiday filling out hundreds of QSL-cards and all were sent out on January 1st 1997, so all correct reports have been replied to.

AN ANORAK MEETS AN OLD FRIEND

We flew with British Airways from Heathrow to Lisbon. It was 18.05 when the aeroplane touched down on the Lisbon runway. The first thing we did when we got through the customs was to buy a map of Lisbon.

We followed the roads down to Poco do Bispo. As we walked along to Poco do Bispo we saw a pier. Thinking that we would be able to see the ship from the pier, we walked along it, but no such luck. We walked along the river for about half a mile and suddenly we could see the rear mast of the **M.V. Communicator**.



Stuart Dobson down in the engine room.

A further distance bought us along side the radioship, with the time now around 19.30. I am glad to say that it was in better condition than we last saw her next to the scrapyard at Mistley. As we approached, we saw a young man by the side of the ship, and as we were showing some interest in the front mast lying on the pier. An older man came along and they both went up the gang plank onto the ship.

Soon afterwards, the young man appeared again, and left the scene in a hurry. The older man stayed nearby and we took the opportu-

nity to look around the ship from the quayside. We asked the older man how long she had been there, but "I no speak the English" he replied. We considered this strange since a little later, in broken English, he asked us questions, like "Where do you come from?" and "What are you doing here".

Feeling rather peckish by now, we sat down to eat some sandwiches. Shortly afterwards, the young man hurried back towards us, accompanied by the police, with guns drawn! Luckily, the older man went to talk to the police, and they looked around the harbour with their machine guns at the ready, and they left.

Around about 20.00, we decided to find a hotel, since we were feeling rather tired and it had been a long day. By 22.00 we had found ourselves a hotel and visited a local bar for a quart of beer and a coke (would you believe the cost...300 Escudos!).

We returned to the M.V. Communicator on Wednesday 30th May to take some photographs. We decided to take some from the opposite side of the harbour and back to the other side, where we saw the same young man again by the radioship. This time he did not look too worried and stood back enabling us to get some better shots including some taken on the main deck and also some of the front mast on the quayside.

Unfortunately, the end of our escapade came too soon and we had to leave Portugal to return to England and the rain, leaving the sunshine and temperatures of 40°C. We are sure that the M.V. Communicator did not mind such temperatures, since its past was one of stormy weather.

Stuart Dobson
Church View
Hilderstone, Stone
Staffordshire ST15 8SF
UNITED KINGDOM

RADIO CAROLINE AGROUND

ON THE GOODWIN SANDS

Stuart Dobson
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UNITED KINGDOM

At 09.00 on Tuesday 19th November, 1991, I woke in my bunk, this bunk being the lower one in room 2 onboard the Radio Caroline ship the M.V. Ross Revenge. I went to the galley and helped myself to breakfast and a cup of coffee. Then I went for a walk round the deck, the sea was quite calm. A short while later the sea became quite choppy and soon it was very rough and things began to slide around in the messy room. Books, ashtrays and mugs fell off the table. Apples and pop cans started to roll around the floor as the ship was tossed from side to side. The waste bin fell over sending its contents all over the place. In the galley crockery, cooking utensils and food started to fly around. We cleaned up everything and made sure everything was restrained from moving around as much as possible.



In one of the studios onboard the legendary M.V. Ross Revenge, Len Iles (left) and Stuart Dobson (left). Next one out is Guns n' Roses!

I went out onto the deck for a walk, dodging the odd wave the came over the side. I headed for the bow to watch the sea getting rougher. I was sitting in the port doorway under the bow deck, having a smoke, watching the waves going over the sides and break a few yards in front of me. Steve came up and said "The gas bottles have come adrift, will you help me to secure them?". We made our way carefully along the main deck which was made very slippery by the sea water being on

top of the oily wooden deck. As the two metre long gas bottles rolled and bounced around the decks, Steve and I ran after them trying to miss the waves coming over the sides. This was made very dangerous because when the ship rolled over, the other way, the bottles were rolling and bouncing after us. Eventually one by one we managed to catch and secure them. Finally, cold, wet and covered in oil, Steven and I went inside to get cleaned and warmed up. Looking back on it, all this was rather funny, but certainly not at the time. On the contrary, it was really very frightening. Having watched a video and had some supper, at 02.30 I retired to my bunk leaving Neil and Christian on night-watch.

At 04.15 I was awakened from a deep sleep by Ricky Jones banging on my cabin door and shouting "Get dressed, get your life-jacket on, we are aground on the Goodwin Sands, go straight to the bridge". I put on plenty of warm clothes with my oil-skins on top and then my life-jacket. I arrived at the bridge to find the rest of the crew there. At different times Neil and Steve went to check the hull in the engine-room. At all times when leaving the bridge we moved about in pairs. Christian and I checked the water-tight doors into the steering room.

The tug Dextrous said they would be with us in an hour. The helicopter arrived and asked if we wanted to be taken off the ship. We thanked them and said we were waiting for the tug and nobody wanted to leave. They said they were going back to base to refuel. The Ramsgate lifeboat was standing off us. While we were waiting for the tug, the waves crashed over the ship hitting the bridge windows. When the hour was up we were in touch with the Dextrous on the ship radio, they said it would be another half hour before they reached us as the M.V. Ross Revenge rolled, she was beginning to keel over to the starboard.

After the half hour had gone we got in touch with the Dextrous who said the bad weather was holding them up. It was decided as the radioship was tilting further and further over to ask the Ramsgate life-boat to take us off. They began to approach us on our starboard and ran aground. The Dover life-boat was on its way and the helicopter was on its back.



The transmitter construction.

When we heard the helicopter we filed outside. As we went through the doorway on the starboard side of the bridge, the wind and spray hit us. Holding on to the rails because of the list, an R.A.F. (Royal Air Force) man was being lowered from the helicopter. We all crossed the wet sloping deck and hung onto the rear transmitter mast. As the waves crashed over us the R.A.F. man was lowered to the back of the stern deck. Neil escorted Wendy across the stern deck to the R.A.F. man who put each one into a harness, then they were winched up. Steve and Ricky made their way across the deck and they were winched up. While all this was going on, Chris and I were hanging onto the rear broadcasting mast as the waves smashed over us. Now it

was our turn. Chris led the way with the wind blowing that hard we had to lean into it to be able to walk. With the deck on the slant down to the starboard, I slipped on the wet deck and slid down to the starboard rail. Fortunately, I hit one of the rear mast sections which had never been put up, from here I managed to crawl to the back. Chris was already in a harness and the R.A.F. man was able to drop the harness loop over me and attached himself. I shut my eyes due to suffering very badly from vertigo. I felt my feet leave the deck and then they got stuck under the safety rail. With the helicopter pulling and my safety boots refusing to bend, something had to give way. I started to fall out of the loop so the R.A.F. man grabbed my life-jacket and stopped me. The helicopter moved away from our stricken ship, then we were winched up. When we were at the helicopter door, the R.A.F. man kicked us in.

Inside the helicopter we took off our life-jackets and put on safety belts. In no time at all, we were landing at the R.A.F. base. We were taken inside and given a shower. Steve, Wendy, Neil, Ricky and Chris were given a flying suit to replace their wet clothes. I didn't need one as I was warm and dry due to the oilskins I was wearing.

We were interviewed by the customs, excise and police. Next the press, television, radio reporters came to interview us. The television people filmed us and the press cameraman took loads of photographs.

We were picked up in two cars and taken to a friendly house, where we were given food, coffee and watched the news on television which included the news of our rescue. A few more photographs were taken and I was asked if this experience had put me off the sea or would I be willing to go back on the Ross Revenge if she was salvaged. Of course I said "Yes".

Stuart Dobson was a crew member of Radio Caroline. He may now be on his way to Israel and Arutz Sheva, who has asked him to go over for an interview for a job onboard the M.V. Hatzvi.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

- DAY BY DAY

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Christmas is the highlight of the year for pirate radio, always absorbing a significantly greater number of stations on the air as well as attracting more listeners who exchange their calm Santa Claus celebrations for some great excitement on the 48 and 76 metre bands! I listened quite intensively myself all Christmas days and here I'll give you a brief, chronological survey of the most interesting stations I caught from my QTH in southern Sweden.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Not much on the 48 metre band this day really, but this is normal. The only two stations I heard were **Radio Perfekt** on 6241 kHz and **Radio Free London** on 6400 kHz, the latter one with a 24-hour service which they usually provide during bigger holidays. RFL was also using the parallel frequency 3945 kHz with a fair to good signal. On the evening I tuned into **Radio Driland** from Germany with quite an enjoyable phone-in programme with lots of pop music. I phoned in to the station and spoke with an English-stumbling DJ, but succeeded in getting understood and got my greetings sent out to all my friends in the Free Radio world. The signal strength was very good and this was a good start of the Christmas activities. A few hours later, at early Christmas Day morning time, **Radio Space-man** switched on his volcano transmitter on 3916 kHz. For those of you who don't know... this station is called **Radio Barones** on mediumwave. Need I say more?

CHRISTMAS DAY

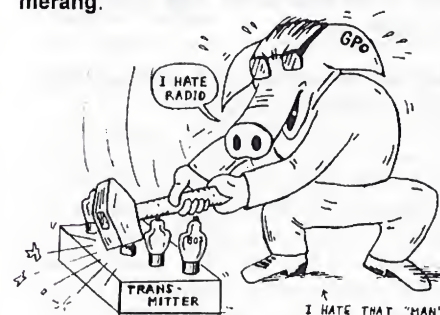
A very good day with lots of activities and fairly good conditions, even towards the afternoon. **Weekend Music Radio** was the first station in my radio on 6285 kHz with a powerful signal. I've always enjoyed this well-known Scottish station with fame Jack Russell behind the controls. Is there a more genuine and original station on shortwave? I doubt it. **Britain Radio International** was a traditional

appearance on the usual 6237/7360 kHz outlet and the programme format was the good old brand in terms of Roger Davis and his charming female colleague Jayne. A new German talent, **Radio Partyline 105**, was heard on 6259 kHz with miscellaneous Christmas music and greetings. **Radio Arena** belongs to one of the "Christmas stations", meaning a station that seldom broadcasts except during the Christmas holidays. The programme was not much to talk about, but it was nice to hear the station since it was quite a few years ago I last heard the station. **Farmers From Holland** boomed the 6305 kHz outlet with the typical bizarre shouting and nagging into the mike. The station was raided a few weeks later by the RCD who presumably took this action due to the provocations made by Radio Dr. Tim over the station. Other Dutch stations this day were **Union Radio** (6281 kHz), **Radio Panther Amsterdam** (6267 kHz) and **Radio Pacman/Hotel Amigo** (6246 kHz). A Christmas seldom passes by without a good spoof appearance with some kind of inventive hoax. During several years, **XMAS** provided this type of entertainment with some extraordinary programmes containing phone-sex, drug-jokes, junkies etc. This year it was **The Santa Claus Overdrive** who entertained the audience with a perverted Santa who played some ancient Christmas music and patted the backside of the famous Playboy playmate Jenny McCarthy! There was also an advert for "The better sex videos" or similar. My guess is that Herbie of XMAS must have been behind this! No address was announced but SRS say they can forward reports to 'Santa'. The programme was also repeated on Boxing Day. The night had quite a few 76 metre activities, mostly the usual QSO-stations such as **Live Wire Radio** and **Radio Boomerang**, but there was also a nice programme put out by **Radio Korak International** on 3910 kHz. Nice music and lots of greetings to various DX-ers. **Radio Space-**

man was also on the air once again as well as RFL on 3945 kHz.

BOXING DAY

British **Laser Hot Hits** was heard during the day on both 6294 and 6220 kHz and featured some Caroline nostalgia. **Weekend Music Radio** smashed the airwaves with unusually heavy strains in terms of heavy metal music on 6281 kHz, and colleague station **Britain Radio International** was active on 6238 kHz. Otherwise there wasn't much to report about. On the afternoon a lengthy QSO was held between several pirates around 6250 kHz, e.g. **Radio Pacman**, **WMR** and **Radio Boomerang**.



DECEMBER 27th

This was the starting gun for yet another broadcast from **Level 48** which turned out to be the most extensive one so far. About 10 stations participated and it all started on 76 metres with **Radio Tonair** at 22 UTC and an hour later my personal favourite **Radio Torenvalk**. Both had satisfactory reception and the stations that followed, **Radio Spaceman**, **Speedwing Radio**, **Radio Fusion International** and **Transatlantic Radio**, all had very good reception. The last-mentioned station made a special test broadcast to North America on 3900 kHz LSB. Beside Level 48, the only station I noted was **Radio Mariquita** on 3925 kHz which had a strangely muffled signal all night with non-stop music and some rare identifications.

DECEMBER 28th

Of course, this Saturday was dominated by Level 48. First out was Swedish-based **Radio**

Fusion International with a two hour programme containing lots of electric jazz music ("fusion") and a flashback of the past year 1996. Then followed a live appearance by **Weekend Music Radio** (6285 kHz) who had PC's own Chris Ise from **Crazy Wave Radio** on a visit during Christmas and New Year. Chris had just arrived to Jack when the broadcast started. Next one on was **Speedwing Radio** (3933 kHz) at 15 UTC with their alternative type of dance music. Unfortunately the German station was interfered briefly by the Dutch station **Radio Sherwood** who played German schlagers on 3931 kHz. More interesting appearances followed after this, **Radio Benelux**, German fame **PFBS** and a guest show by our own Kim Hawk of **Starshine Radio** in Denmark.

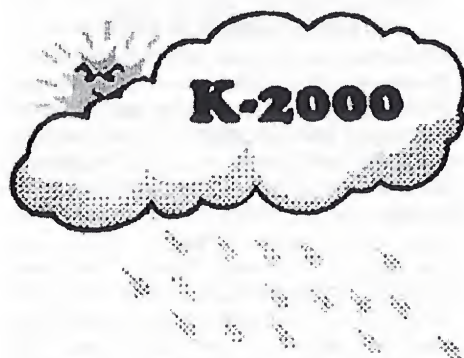
DECEMBER 29th

The last day for the Level 48 event and for the first time two frequencies were used in parallel, one with a German service and the other with English service. Most of stations already mentioned were active, new was **Radio Action** from Holland who was heard on 6282 kHz rather late in the afternoon. Quite a rare station. Other stations heard, which were not taking part in the Level 48 broadcast, were **Radio Waves International** from France who had one of the best signals I have ever heard from this station on 11401 kHz! Peter Hills featured a "Country music show". **Jugendradio** (6260 kHz) – "free independent radio on your dial" – should be the quite opposite to the old DDR regime's youth radio station. The Wuppertal drop was announced. On 6248 kHz I heard **Radio Experimental** with a weak signal, but managed to get enough details for a reception report. The operator of Ozone is behind this station. There were also some interesting 76 metre activities. Believe it or not, **Voice Of The Netherlands** (VOTN) was heard on 3911 kHz, as far as I know op Gerrit has been inactive for several years! He's become a father of two children the past few years, which may be the explanation for his long absence. Gerrit had a QSO with British **Radio Blackbeard** on 3912 kHz among other stations.

THE K-2000 STYLE RIDE!

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K-2000 has been a mysterious entity since they began producing shows a few years ago. Each show was instantly known by the unbelievable quality in production and programming. Suddenly, there was a station on the air that sounded like it was a commercial production from start to finish. Each show contained original music with lyrics, some of the funniest songs about DXing ever heard, and segments about the DX hobby that were more ridiculous than anything heard before on a Free Radio station. It was simply outrageous. And club magazines universally called K-2000 brilliant and destined to be a classic.



K-2000's impact on the U.S. pirate scene is equally dramatic. Several years ago, a hint leaked out that a new show would be aired one particular weekend. It seemed like all of North America had radios tuned in, and the increased load of e-mail was predominately about the broadcast. That's the effect that K-2000 has on everyone. The station not only won The Best Free Radio Station of the Year from the voters in annual ACE pirate poll last year, but it also claimed The Cellblock 13 poll's top honor, and walked away with The ACE's Best Technical Programming award as well.

This interview almost never happened. It was through sheer luck that I was able to even suggest an interview with someone who knew

the crew. This contact was accidental, but it has paid off. All correspondence with K-2000 was through several Internet drops, and replies took weeks to get back to me. The interview was conducted in the ask a question via email, get the answer, then the next question manner. So, many e-mailings took place over the past few months. Sometimes, the K-2000 people seemed to just disappear for weeks. So, for the first time ever in print — here is K-2000. Hang on and fasten your seatbelts. Get ready for the unexpected. You are in for a K-2000 style ride!

Okay, we have to start somewhere. What's the history behind K-2000?

1997 is K-2000's fifth year of broadcasting to the North American audience. We began on July 4, 1993, with a short pilot program to test our programming ideas and determine if there was any interest in sharp radio humor. The show went out with only an imitation of Glenn Hauser and his weekly program, but it was an immediate hit. DX'ers lapped it up like a dog drinking out of a puddle. This pilot show gave us the motivation to produce more, and that we've certainly done. To date, there are 11 K-2000 programs, and we've impersonated over 60 DX'ers.

Are impersonations important for your programming?

Well, we determined long before K-2000 evolved that DX'ers are only interested in QSL cards. I mean, you're all obsessed with them things, for Christ sake! So the decision was made that K-2000 programs would consist entirely of original club-based humor. We could have easily sat behind a desk and whined like a beaten cat over disco music, ala Kim Hawk of Starshine Radio, or put the listeners to sleep with one-liner jokes, as Radio Azteca does. But instead we tried to produce something listeners would listen to. Imagine you hear your own name over the air. It would make you sit up and pay more attention, right? Now imagine there's music, sound

effects, and your voice talking about bestiality. That's K-2000.

Who have you impersonated that PC readers may know?

Glenn Hauser, Jonathan Marks, Bob Grove of The Monitoring Times, Rich D'Angelo and Jerry Berg of NASWA, Henrik Klementz, Don Moore, Graham Barclay of KIWI, Marie Lamb of Cumbre DX's radio program... Marie's impersonation took place in the forest since she's as fat as an elephant. We had a nature documentary crew out following her as she hunted and mated in the wild.

Has anyone ever heard their own "voice" during your show?

Some people have, but usually they are too embarrassed to say anything. I do know that one listener foolishly sent off a copy of our 30 minute long offensive HCJB "DX Partyline" parody to Rich McVicar. I doubt Rich ever thanked him for it. Our most popular voice, by far, has been Glenn Hauser. We've done him some 4 or 5 times in a variety of settings: translated into Jive, live in a nursing home, and even impersonated by his gay lover Bill Westenhauser... Imagine, an impersonation of an impersonation! One of these days he's going to get a package he'll never forget!

Didn't you air columnist George Zellers real voice during The JTA Trial? (This was the show where writer and pundit John T. Arthur was put on trial) I know I laughed at that myself, and it sure sounded like George. A lot of people said that you should of had John Arthur found guilty in that show. And, you spoke about short-wave DXers, but what about pirate DXers? Don't you focus some of your shows towards that end of the hobby too?

Yes indeed. In fact, we also got Mike Folk, JTA's most vocal pirate critic at the time, on tape as well commenting about the "trial." That show was more or less improvised from the start. We were in the planning stages of writing a black-based show for the "Million Man March" when the O.J. Simpson verdict came in suddenly. Immediately we shifted gears and drew up an outline of what we wanted to do, and within two days the show was completed. Compared to the 2 or 3

months we usually take, this was unbelievable. "The JTA Verdict" also raises a good point. Every joke, sketch, and personality trait of our characterisations are based on fact. For instance, Zeller's voice during this show (as a "legal expert" during the news coverage) was his answering machine: "I'm not home to take your call..." Although it was funny, what we were really saying is that he never takes a stand on any issues pertinent to SW clubs. Likewise, during our parody of the hit U.S. show "Seinfeld," we imitated the TV stars at the NASWA Winterfest conference. Fred Kohlbrenner, a DX'er renowned for his obsession with pennants and who lives with his parents at 35, has a temper tantrum and steals all of the Radio Canada pennants on top of a promo table. Well, believe it or not, there's a famous story in which this guy really did take every last pennant and sticker being given away. What's funny about what we laugh at is that it's 90% real! Just like how Arthur gets away with crimes during the show - in real life he's gotten away with so much more. That's why he was found innocent, and that's why public reaction to the broadcast was disappointment.



We proudly confirm your reception of The JTA Verdict

October 15, 1995 • 0100 UTC • 6955 kHz
Power: 100 watts • Elevation: 5200'

The K-2000 QSL-card.

So would you say that K-2000 has a mission or goal?

We sure do, Captain. K-2000 may be entertainment, but we consider it more as forcing DX'ers to look directly into a mirror. Most of the people we impersonate tend to sound mentally ill or socially dysfunctional. And if

Continued on page 10.

HOW TO IMPROVE SHORT-WAVE RECEPTION, PART 2

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As explained in the former issue of this mag, we know that the main problem for the majority of the listeners is not a lack of signal but a bad signal to noise ratio.

Especially on the lower bands, the 76 metre band in particular, this seems to be a problem for those of you who are listening in towns or villages. I have been suffering from bad QRM since I'm living in a crowded area and in my search for an improvement, I have been experimenting with various types of antennas and supporting equipment. The following method has proven quite successful in almost any thinkable situation.

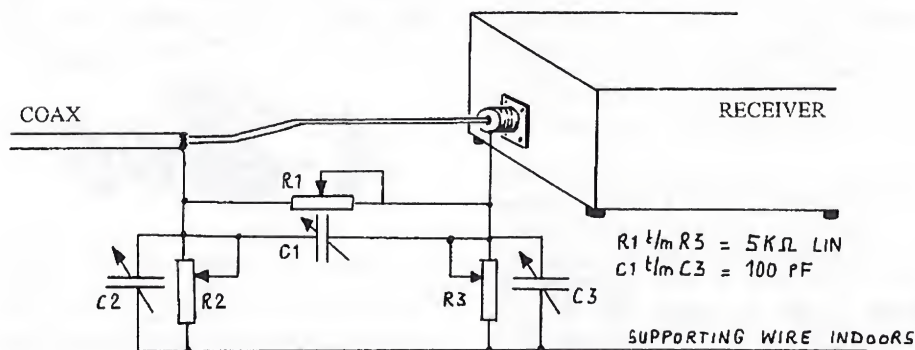
You install a longwire of between 10 and 15 metres outdoors and connect this to a magnetic balun mounted on the top of your roof.

Use coaxial cable RG58/U to connect to your receiver. The length of this coaxial cable must be at least some 10 metres!

Generally the coax that is indoors will pick up more QRM than the longwire that is outdoors. Normally the coaxial screen is grounded and therefore the QRM picked up by it will not reach your receiver.

If you manage to feed the coax-QRM 180 degrees in reverse to the longwire-QRM, then at a certain level the QRM will disappear or at least decrease. Often a short wire of about 2-4 metres indoors will be needed as a supporting aerial.

The trick lies in the way you connect the coaxial cable to your receiver:



Turn the variable capacitors and resistors to a point where the QRM will drop.

Much success.



**RADIO PANDORA
THE HAPPY ONE**

PC GOES INTERNET

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I said in the last issue of PC, that I would start looking on web-sites, and also try to mention what kind of tools you should use to get the most out of the sites. This is a very difficult task for me! The easiest would be to say that you could visit my link-page, and enjoy the travel. Hopefully you will not bounce into any Error 404's - Your requested URL does not exist. Many of those Error 404's could be removed from your screen, if the Webmaster paid any attention to his links. Before I started this article today, I took a quick trip around from my own linkpage. Thanks to that, I could remove 12 and update one. Twelve links were gone! So instead of telling you that I find the Radio St Cruz Homepage being quite odd etc., I beg you to tell the Webmasters every time his / her links are out-dated or generate an error 404.

Let us instead talk about some of the plug-ins and external programs that you MUST have to live a descend life on the Internet. I will only talk about programs that will fit to the Netscape 2.0 + and MSIE Explorer 3.0 +. So if You still driving around with MSIE 1.0 or so, get yourself a better net-browser! First of all, let us find out what kind of plug-ins you already have!

Netscape: Click on Help and then About Plug-ins. Then you will find out witch plug-ins you already have installed.

MSIE3.0: Well, I have not found any place were I can add or see plug-ins in this program. Probably are everything already integrated or have to run from external programs. If I'm totally wrong on this subject, please let me know!

Plug-ins takes memory! So don't install all plug-ins you cross over, if you browse to http://home.netscape.com/comprod/products/navigator/version_2.0/plugins/index.html you will find a lot of plug-ins for Netscape. But what should you have?

Sound is popular on the websites today. I have came across three different types, Real Audio, TrueSpeech and Echospeech. There are more of those real time running sound players, but those three are probably the biggest (in order of mentioning as well). Netscape and MSIE has support for Real Audio from the beginning, and I think MSIE has for TrueSpeech too. But Echospeech has to be downloaded from the URL mentioned above.

To install a plug-in, just download the file to your plugin-subdirectory (could be c:\Netscape\Program\Plugins) and then run it from the Explorer, restart Netscape and voila!

Movies - well, if you are interested in seeing short cuts in bad quality from the new movies soon coming up at your local cinema, then you should have a VDO or QuickTime plug-in installed or why not booth. The only problem for this kind of action, that we have to see a movie as, are the slow speed on the Internet. Sometimes you really have the time to go for a new cup of coffee! Between two photos in a film!

Finally, if you haven't visited WMR out there on the Internet, do so. Probably one of the biggest homepages I've ever seen! I had to change my webconstructing program just to be able to handle it!

If you have any particular questions concerning the Internet, handle them over to me!

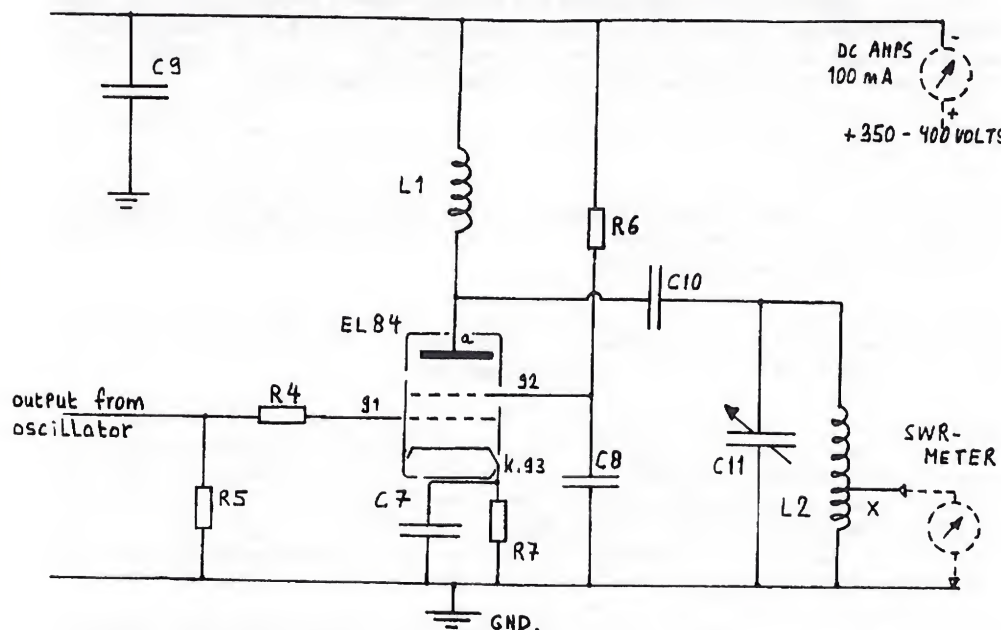
Until next time, 73's/ Jonny @ SRS

FREE RADIO TECHNIQUE

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Before starting part 2 I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who gave me comments and suggestions for my first columns.

Let's pick up the story right where we left in the former issue of this mag. We have succeeded in creating a carrier and now we will try to increase its power. For this purpose an other valve will be used, again an easy-to-obtain type will be used, namely an EL84, which is a very common type of speaker driver. It is often used in many valve receivers and is still available on the market. Again, if you have any problems in obtaining this valve, just get in touch with me. The signal (output) from the oscillator will be fed into the first grid of the EL84 and here is the diagram:



R4 = 100 Ohm 1 watt C7 = 10.000 pF ceramic 100 volt

R5 = 10.000 Ohm 1 watt

R6 = 2.200 Ohm 2 watts

R7 = 180 Ohm 1 watt

C8 = 1000 pF ceramic 400 volt

C9 = 1000 pF ceramic 400 volt

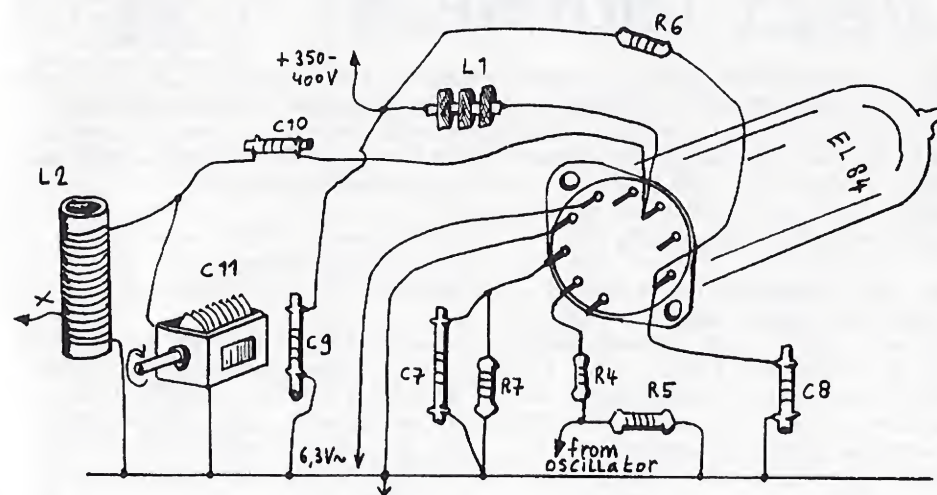
C10 = 1000 pF ceramic 400 volt

C11 = 0-200/300 pF variable air-type

L1 = radio frequent choke

L2 = coil on plastic tube 25 mm 20 turns of copper wire 1mm², firmly and tightly put on the coil base. Point X is at 6 turns

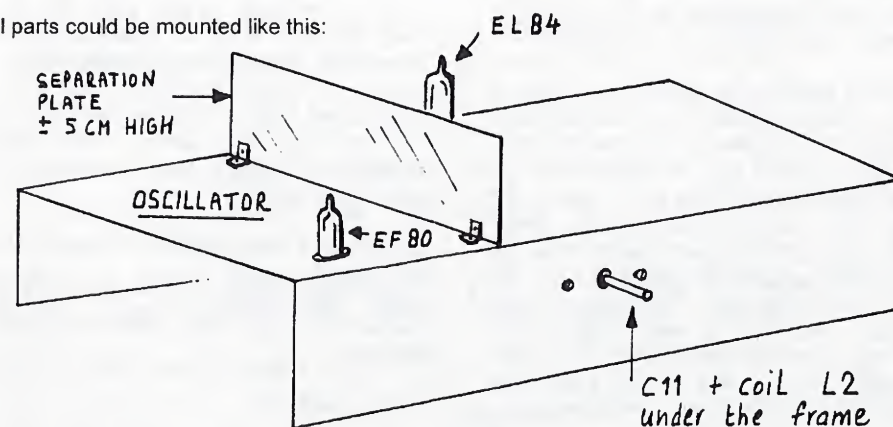
These are the connections of the valve:



With C11 the plate current must be adjusted to a minimum level, and at the same time an increase of the carrier must be noticed. For this purpose and for monitoring your signals in general, an old valve receiver is strongly recommended and if available, use a receiver which has no ferrite inside antenna. Remember that the signal level of your own transmitter is a million times higher as that of an average shortwave broadcaster, so never use a sensitive shortwave receiver to monitor your own signals. Sooner or later serious damage will be done to this receiver.

The plate current of the valve can be measured with a D.C. amps meter, rate 100 mA. This current can be taken from the power supply we have already made. This valve could give you, when all is working well, at least some 5 watts at 400 volts. When an SWR/power meter is available, connect the input of this meter to point X and ground. An easy adjustment of C11 is now possible (see figure).

All parts could be mounted like this:



In the next issue, we will focus on the last stage of the transmitter which will give us not less than 100 watts of power. Until then.

CRAZY THOUGHTS

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Well, once more here one of my favourites themes concerning Free Radio. Do you remember the "tape-station" discussion a few years back? No, many will say, but hope to re-open it here! Once more a station got raided, surprisingly after it started to relay German tapes. But is this surprising?

Let's have a view back. First there was a powerful Dutch station called **Radio Orang Utan** who offered relays and was mainly used by the Germans. After the station got busted it was the turn of **Radio Merlin**. All the tapes went over there, and he was next. No problems, for the tape stations, as there was still **Baltic** available, also the signal was always a little bit weak. The only problem was that also the Baltic transmitter was confiscated by the PTT and no relay station was left, except of the USB **Radio Europe** and the commercial **IRRS** for one US\$ a minute.

After some discussions a few of the tape stations bought now own equipment as it seemed that they knew that there can be drawn connection among the raids. I can remember the discussions and the shoutings against **Benelux** and me saying that we were arrogant. They could not believe that there always is a major interest mainly of the German PTT to get stations off air, also if the signal is coming from outside of Germany.

But now back to the nearest past. One of these stations convinced by the mentioned discussion got raided last November. Unfortunately it seems that the operator did not understand anything because he was on the week after via the strongest Dutch station with a programme lasting several hours. So far nothing against this, but is it really the best to shout against the authorities? Wasn't it nice to announce the own Christmas programme over this station? Well, the consequences can be seen. It only took a few weeks after the Germans entered the station

and the station was took off air. For me and many more here in Germany involved to Free Radio the reasons are clear, also others are saying that this Dutch station was observed since last August.

So, who is next? RFL? It is and it will be always the same, others are paying the bill for them!

More and more listeners writing to CWR are bored of German Free Radio at the moment, although a few new young listeners are finding our bands, more and more old ones are switching off – totally bored. The main listeners are outside of Germany, mainly for the reason that Germany is not a radio land at all. All the spoofs and fakes running here are quite amazing for the moment, but don't last longer and do not help to reach a higher level.

The Level 48 spoof was not mainly against Level 48, but against BNL and CWR, as those who did this know what we are thinking about them. It is symptomatic that also this spoof was planned unprofessionally, so there was no problem to identify the voice behind it.

Anyway, we have on one hand the "old" ones, bored and inactive – those who abuse Free Radio for their own planned radio career to get practise but not to provide Free Radio spirit, and on the other hand stations who are changing names and always founding new projects, just for getting more station mail from the DX hunters.

Luckily there are a lot who are listening but not writing, mainly outside of Germany, thank you! Probably singing **Starshine Hawk** sees it once more different! It is complicated!

73 from tired Chris

STARRY THOUGHTS

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Well, well, well.....oh dear, oh dear.....hate everything.....that does not include me!.....Why don't you listen to 76 mb?.....Where are the good old days?.....When do I get a proper dipole? Hate everything!.....Specially mornings and Japanese DX-ers.....Am I totally crazy? Nope, just in a bad mood. This is my last **Starry Thoughts™** for Pirate Connection! Nope, I've not been kicked out or anything like that, I just simply doesn't have the time any more. Travelling across Europe for my job takes too much time, so I have to sleep during the weekends. The activities from Starshine will of course suffer from this as well, but as you don't listen to 76 mb, you'll not notice any difference at all! I will end my last **Starry Thoughts™** by reminding you with some classic quotations from older copies of Pirate Connection and **Starry Thoughts™**!

- It's up to the listener to decide what is quality! [PC 4]
-eh.....oh, you're back! [PC14/15]
- Well, I've always been considered as odd [PC14/15]
- Please all lovely DX-ers, do not use standard-forms when you report a FR-station! [PC4]
- Buurp! [PC6]
- Someone, let us call him Jolly Fake, wrote something about a poor me! [PC14/15]
- Give Jolly Jake at Radio Fusion a chance. [PC6]
- I'm not crazy, just an OP that likes to sing along with the records. [PC14/15]
- Don't forget to tune into the 76 mb next weekend. [PC9]

So many thanks to Stefan for letting me spit gold and sulphur on his readers in his magnificent magazine, and what ever you do in the future, dear readers, stay tuned to 76 mb and always renew you subscription to Pirate Connection – you can't afford a life without it!

And finally to all stupid DX-ers out there (if there exist any stupid DX-ers, the soon coming lines with words structured as sentences are directly pointed to them!), I would like to say:

- Always include return postage (I can name some notorious DX-ers not doing this!)
- Never use standard forms and ask for pennants, stickers, QSL, my dog etc. etc.
- Write more than once to your favourite stations (I might not be among yours, but all the other stations out there!)
- Listen carefully to the programs, so you get a proper identification!
- When you hear a station with good signal – write! We do this because of you – make us happy! Make my day!

This is Kim Hawk, your sing-along-an-oldie-DJ, signing off from this editorial heavy work and now standing by with having a cold beer, a good cigar and an enjoyable life.

See ya out there on 76 mb during 1997!

Kim Hawk